

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 AID-20

IO-14 EA-11 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

STR-08 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 120448

R 310315Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5643

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

S E C R E T KABUL 7621

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJ: BRITISH FEARS ON AFGHAN STABILITY

REF: A) LONDON 12273; B) KABUL 7462

1. I EXCHANGED VIEWS OCTOBER 30 WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR DRINKALL ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND FOUND THAT WE HAVE ALMOST IDENTICAL READING OF ADMITTEDLY CLOUDY FUTURE, CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION GIVEN BY REF A (SEE REF B FOR OUR MOST CURRENT POLITICAL ASSESSMENT.).

2. DRINKALL SAID HE HAD REPORTED TO LONDON THAT DAOUD HAD NO BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF BEING IN OFFICE ONE YEAR HENCE. SAID THAT ACTIVE CONFLICT GOING ON BETWEEN YOUNG MILITARY

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OFFICERS ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND DAOUD EXPLAINED CONTINUING

FAILURE TO FILL KEY SUB-MINISTERIAL POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENT AND TO HOBBLE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, WITH WHICH OBSERVATION WE CONCUR. HE DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE "OVERTHROW OF DAOUD BY YOUNGER OFFICERS FAIRLY IMMINENT". WE AGREED THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT ANOTHER THREE MONTHS MUST ELAPSE BEFORE FIRM PREDICTIONS ON REGIME'S STABILITY ARE POSSIBLE.

3. RUMORS OF IMPENDING CABINET SHAKEUP CONTINUE CIRCULATING IN EVER INCREASING CIRCLES HERE, WITH SOME AFGHAN OFFICIALS FLATLY PREDICTING ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS WEEK WILL BE FORTHCOMING. DRINKALL AND I SHARE VIEW THAT SHOULD SHAKE-UP INDEED OCCUR, NATURE OF NEW APPOINTMENTS WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT SIGNAL AS TO DEGREE TO WHICH DAOUD CONSOLIDATING HIS CONTROL.
LEWIS

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NNN

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